

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring resource units in a group, comprising:
  - (a) detecting a first ~~size~~ level of a group of resource units;
  - (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units,  
wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
  - (c) removing one or more of the resource units from the group; and
  - ~~(b)~~ determining a thickness of a portion of the resource units; and
  - ~~(e)(d)~~ indicating determining when the group of resource units reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the  
predetermined second size level after ~~the portion~~ one or more of the  
resource units has been removed from the group and ~~responsive to the~~  
~~determination of thickness in step (b)~~ based upon a thickness of one or  
more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the  
second level.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the group of resource units is a stack of sheet articles in a mail insertion system.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~detecting the~~  
determining a thickness of the portion of one or more of the resource units prior  
to ~~the portion of resource units being removed~~ removal of one or more resource  
units from the group.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein detecting the first ~~size~~ level of the group of resource units includes providing a sensor for determining when the first ~~size~~ level of the group of resource units is less than a predetermined third ~~size~~ level.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein determining when the group of resource units reaches the predetermined second level further comprises determining the thickness ~~further includes~~ of one or more of the resource units by providing a device for measuring the an actual thickness of ~~the portion of one or more of the~~ resource units as ~~the portion of one or more of the~~ resource units are removed from the group.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the resource units are in a stack, and ~~the resource units are removed from the group by~~ further comprising removing resource units from the bottom of the stack.
- 7-15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling removal of sheet articles from a stack, comprising:
  - (a) detecting a first level of a stack of sheet articles;
  - (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the stack of sheet articles, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
  - ~~(b)~~(c) removing one or more sheet articles from the stack;
  - ~~(c)~~(d) determining ~~[[a]]~~ an actual thickness of ~~at least one~~ one or more of the sheet articles removed from the stack;

- ~~(d)~~(e) ~~indicating~~ determining when the stack of sheet articles reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined second level ~~and responsive to~~ based upon the determination of actual thickness in step ~~(e)~~ (d) and a distance between the first level and the second level; and
- ~~(e)~~(f) selectively stopping removal of sheet articles from the stack.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein detecting the level of a stack of sheet articles from a stack~~ further includes comprising providing a sensor for determining when the first level of the stack of sheet articles is less than a predetermined third level.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the sheet articles are removed by removing one or more sheet articles from the bottom of the stack.
- 19-20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring resource units in a ~~stack~~ group, the system comprising:
- (a) a container for containing a group of resource units;
  - (b) a measurement detector for detecting a first ~~size~~ level of the group of resource units;
  - (c) a controller for identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
  - (d) a device for removing one or more of the resource units from the group; and

- (e) ~~a device for measuring a thickness of a portion of the resource units; and~~  
(d)(e) ~~an indicator for indicating~~ the controller further being adapted for  
determining ~~responsive to the determination of thickness from said~~  
~~device~~, when the group of resource units reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined  
second ~~size~~ level ~~after the portion removal of one or more of the~~  
resource units ~~has been removed from the group and based upon a~~  
thickness of one or more of the resource units and a distance between  
the first level and the second level.
22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the group of resource units is a group of sheet articles in a mail insertion system.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the ~~device~~ controller is adapted for ~~measuring the~~ determining a thickness of ~~the portion of~~ one or more of the resource units prior to ~~the group of~~ one or more of the resource units being removed from the group.
24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the measurement detector includes a sensor for determining whether the first ~~size~~ level of the group of resource units is less than a predetermined third ~~size~~ level.
- 25-26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 ~~wherein the indicator includes~~ further comprising a display for providing a visual display of information to an operator.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the display provides an indication to the operator when the group of resource units is less than the predetermined second ~~size~~ level.

29-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for monitoring resource units in a ~~stack~~ group, the computer program product comprising computer-executable instructions embodied in a computer-readable medium for performing steps comprising:

- (a) detecting a first ~~size~~ level of a group of resource units; and
- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- (c) removing one or more of the resource units from the group; and
- ~~(b)(d)~~ indicating determining, based upon a thickness determination of a portion one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level, when the group of resource units reaches  
[[a]] the predetermined second size level after the portion of one or more  
of the resource units has been removed from the group.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 41 further comprising detecting the first size level of the group of resource units prior to any resource units being ~~moved~~ removed from the group.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring resource units ~~from~~ in a group, comprising:
- (a) a detector for detecting a first level of a ~~stack group~~ of resource units;
  - (b) a controller for identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
  - ~~(b)(c)~~ a ~~mechanical~~ device for removing one or more resource units from the group;
  - ~~(e)(d)~~ a device for determining ~~[[a]]~~ an actual thickness of ~~at least one~~ or more of the resource units removed from the group; and
  - ~~(d)(e)~~ ~~an indicator operable to indicate~~ the controller further being adapted for determining, responsive to the detector, when the group of resource units is below ~~[[a]]~~ the first ~~predetermined~~ level, and for indicating determining, responsive to the determination of actual thickness ~~by the device~~ and a distance between the first level and the second level, when the group of resource units is below ~~[[a]]~~ the ~~second~~ predetermined second level.
45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44 wherein the group of resource units is a stack of sheet articles in a mail insertion system.
46. (Canceled)
47. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring resource units in a group, comprising:

- (a) ~~providing~~ detecting a first level of a group of resource units;
- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units,  
wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- (c) removing one or more of the resource units;
- ~~(b)~~ ~~determining a thickness of one or more of the resource units;~~
- ~~(e)(d)~~ indicating determining when the group of resource units reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the  
predetermined size second level after one or more of the resource units  
has been ~~moved~~ removed from the group and ~~responsive to the~~  
~~determination of thickness in step (b)~~ based upon a thickness of the one  
or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and  
the second level; and
- ~~(d)(e)~~ ~~wherein the predetermined size of step (c) is a first predetermined size,~~  
~~and wherein indicating determining~~ when the group of resource units  
reaches the ~~first~~ predetermined size second level includes:
  - (i) ~~detecting when the a~~ size of the group of resource units is less  
than a ~~second~~ third predetermined size level;
  - (ii) when the size of the group of resource units is less than the  
~~second~~ third predetermined size level, determining the number of  
resource units moved from the group; and
  - (iii) when the number of resource units moved from the group is less  
than a predetermined number, indicating the group is less than  
the predetermined size second level.

48. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring resource units in a group, comprising:

- (a) detecting a first size level of a group of resource units;
- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- (c) removing one or more of the resource units from the group;
- ~~(b)~~ ~~determining a thickness of a portion of the resource units;~~
- ~~(e)~~(d) indicating determining when the group of resource units reaches [[a]] the predetermined second size level after the portion one or more of the resource units has been removed from the group and responsive to the determination of thickness in step (b) based upon a thickness of one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level; and
- ~~(d)~~(e) disabling removal of resource units when the group of resource units is less than the predetermined second size level.

49-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling removal of sheet articles from a stack, comprising:

- (a) detecting a first level of a stack of sheet articles;
- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the stack of sheet articles, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- ~~(b)~~(c) removing one or more sheet articles from the stack;



- ~~(e)~~(d) determining ~~[[a]]~~ an actual thickness of ~~at least one~~ or more of the sheet articles removed from the stack;
- ~~(d)~~(e) ~~indicating~~ determining when the stack of sheet articles reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined second level ~~and responsive to~~ based upon the determination of actual thickness in step ~~(e)~~ (d) and a distance between the first level and the second level;
- ~~(e)~~(f) selectively stopping removal of sheet articles from the stack; and
- ~~(f)~~(g) ~~wherein the predetermined level of step (d) is a first predetermined level~~ and wherein ~~indicating~~ determining when the stack of sheet articles reaches the ~~first~~ predetermined second level includes:
  - (i) detecting when the level of the stack of sheet articles is less than a ~~second~~ third predetermined level;
  - (ii) when the level of the stack of sheet articles is less than the ~~second~~ third predetermined level, determining the number of sheet articles removed from the stack; and
  - (iii) when the number of sheet articles removed from the stack is less than ~~the~~ a predetermined number, indicating the stack is less than the predetermined second level.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling removal of sheet articles from a stack, comprising:

- (a) detecting a first level of a stack of sheet articles;

- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the stack of sheet articles, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- ~~(b)~~(c) removing one or more sheet articles from the stack;
- ~~(e)~~(d) determining ~~[[a]]~~ an actual thickness of ~~at least one~~ or more of the sheet articles removed from the stack;
- ~~(d)~~(e) ~~indicating~~ determining when the stack of sheet articles reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined second level ~~and responsive to~~ based upon the determination of actual thickness in step ~~(e)~~ (d) and a distance between the first level and the second level;
- ~~(e)~~(f) selectively stopping removal of sheet articles from the stack; and
- ~~(f)~~(g) disabling the moving of sheet articles when the stack of sheet articles is less than the predetermined second level.

53. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring resource units in a ~~stack~~ group, the system comprising:

- (a) a container for containing a group of resource units;
- (b) a measurement detector for detecting a first level of the group of resource units;
- (c) a controller for identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- (d) a device for removing one or more of the resource units;
- ~~(b) a device for measuring a thickness of one or more of the resource units;~~

~~(e)~~(e) an indicator for indicating the controller further being adapted for determining, responsive to the determination of thickness from said device, when the group of resource units reaches [[a]] the predetermined second size level after removal of one or more of the resource units has been moved from the group and based upon a thickness of one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level; and

~~(d)~~(f) a counter for determining the number of resource units removed from the container.

54. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring resource units in a ~~stack~~ group, the system comprising:

(a) a container for containing a group of resource units;

(b) a measurement detector for detecting a first level of the group of resource units;

(c) a controller for identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;

~~(b)~~ a device for measuring a thickness of one or more of the resource units;

~~(e)~~(d) an indicator for indicating the controller further being adapted for determining, responsive to the determination of thickness from said device, when the group of resource units reaches [[a]] the predetermined second size level after removal of one or more of the resource units has

~~been moved~~ from the group and based upon a thickness of one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level;

~~(d)~~(e) a counter for determining the number of resource units removed from the container;

~~(e)~~(f) a ~~mechanical~~ device for removing resource units from the container; and

~~(f)~~(g) ~~[[a]]~~ the controller further being adapted for indicating to the counter the removal of one or more resource units.

55-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for monitoring resource units in a ~~stack~~ group, the computer program product comprising computer-executable instructions embodied in a computer-readable medium for performing steps comprising:

(a) detecting a first level size of resource units in a group of resource units;

(b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;

(c) removing one or more of the resource units;

~~(b)~~(d) indicating determining, based upon the a thickness thicknesses of at least one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level, when the group of resource units reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined second level size after one or more resource units has been ~~moved~~ removed from the group; and

~~(e)~~(e) wherein indicating when the group of resource units reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined second level size in step ~~(b)~~ (c) further includes:

- (i) determining whether the number of resource units moved from the group is less than a predetermined number; and
- (ii) indicating that the second level size of the resource units is less than the predetermined number when the number of resource units moved is less than the predetermined number.

Please add the following new claims:

59. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring resource units in a group, comprising:

- (a) detecting a first level of a group of resource units;
- (b) identifying a predetermined second level of the group of resource units, wherein the predetermined second level is lower than the first level;
- (c) removing one or more of the resource units from the group; and
- (d) determining when the group of resource units reaches the predetermined second level after one or more of the resource units has been removed from the group and based upon an actual thickness of one or more of the resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level.

60. (New) A method of monitoring a group of resource units, the method comprising:

- (a) providing resource units in a group stacked to a first level;

- (b) grasping one or more of the stacked resource units for removal of grasped resource units from the group;
- (c) determining an actual thickness of the grasped resource units while the grasped resource units are stacked to the first level; and
- (d) determining when the stacked resource units reach a second level based upon the determination of the actual thickness of the grasped resource units and a distance between the first level and the second level.